(c) the action being taken by the Central Government on the proposals received from Madhya Pradesh Government and by when they are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Strengthening of capacity of urban local bodies has been identified as a key element of strategy for urban development in the Eleventh Plan and is integral component of various schemes like Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme and Scheme for Infrastructure Development for Satellite Towns/Counter Magnets. A separate provision of Rs.125 crore has also been made under the Eleventh Plan for capacity building of urban local bodies with the objective of setting up of centres of excellence in field of urban development, strengthening urban planing, project implementation and management, financial management, implementation of National Urban Sanitation Policy, municipal service delivery and implementation of municipal reforms related to property tax, accounting, e-Governance and Public Private Partnership.

(b) A proposal seeking Rs.2.55 crore from Central Government has been received in Ministry of Urban Development from Government of Madhya Pradesh under Capacity Building Scheme for Urban Local Bodies (CBULB). The proposal comprises two components *viz.* (i) Citywide sanitation planning and capacity building in 11 towns of Madhya Pradesh (Rs.1.1 crore) (ii) Strategizing of sanitation programme in the state (Rs. 1.45 crore).

(c) Ministry of Urban Development has examined the proposal of Government of Madhya pradesh and approved the Proposal.

Special Category Status to Bihar

*312. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether special category status demand of the State Government of Bihar has not been met by Government, so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has since examined the points on which the State has demanded the special category status;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (e) Special Category State status for allocation of Central Assistance to State Plans has generally been accorded in the past to States that have been characterized by a number of features necessitating special consideration. These features include: (1) hilly and difficult terrain,

(2) low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population, (3) strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries, (4) economic and infrastructural backwardness, and (5) non-viable nature of state finances.

The decision to accord special category status to a particular state is to be taken by the National Development Council (NDC) which is the sole body competent to do so. The decision is based on an integrated consideration of all the factors and peculiar situation of the State. The Government of Bihar has made a request for grant of Special Category Status. Government of India is seized of the matter.

Real Estate Regulation Bill

*313. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has completed the consultative process with States, experts and other stakeholders to finalise the draft Model Real Estate Regulation Bill;

(b) if so, the details of the important issues incorporated in the said Bill after such consultations;

(c) whether any suggestions have been incorporated to check the entry of unscrupulous elements in the property sector and to keep the prices of properties at reasonable level;

(d) if so, the details in this regard, and

(e) by when Government proposes to introduce the said Bill?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) In order to promote planned and healthy real estate development of colonies and apartments with a view to protecting consumer interest on the one hand and to facilitate smooth and speedy urban construction on the other in consultation with various stake holders, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has drafted a Model Real Estate (Regulation of Development) Bill, which was put up on the website of that Ministry to elicit comments and suggestions on the draft Bill through the web site and issue of public notice, and was also referred to State Governments and Competition Commission. The Ministry has informed that it has received more than 350 response by email and post, which are being collated and suitably compiled.

The Ministry of Urban Development also proposes to introduce a Bill *viz.* the National Capital Territory of Delhi Real Estate Management (Promotion and Regulation) Bill, 2009 in Parliament to create the legal and institutional framework to regulate activities relating to real estate management in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Towards this end, the draft Bill has been prepared by the Ministry of Urban Development and is under inter-ministerial consultation.